(a) whether it is a fact that Indian Dairy Association, New Delhi controlled and managed by NDDB is organising a National Symposium at a 5-Star Hotel in Delhi in September, 1991;

(b) whether it is also a fact that high fees would prohibit/prevent individuals and scientists some of whom are even life members from participating in the symposium; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures Government propose to take in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI K. C. LENKA): (a) The Indian Dairy Association is not controlled and managed by NDDB. It is a registered Society registered with Registrar of Societies under Act. XXI of 1860 and managed by the elected Central Executive Committee in accordance with the Memorandum of Association and Rules & Regulations.

(b) The Annual General Body of the Indian Dairy Association in its meeting held on 3rd Sept., 1991 has decided to oranise a Symposium in September, 1991. The date, venue and fee for the participants are yet to be decided.

(c) Does not arise.

**Volcanic eruption at Indo-Burmese border**

1780. SHRI G. G. SWELL: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Barren Island on the Indo-Burmese maritime boundary has been in volcanic eruption;

(b) the intensity of the eruption;

(c) whether the Lieutenant Governor of Andaman and Nicobar Island and his staff paid a visit to the Island to watch and study the eruption; and

(d) whether the eruption is having any ecological effect on India?

THE MINISTER OF STATE (INDEPENDENT CHARGE) OF THE MINISTRY OF MINES (SHRI BALRAM SINGH YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Barren Island volcano in Andaman and Nicobar Islands is erupting lava and smoke. The red hot lava has reached the landing site near the north-western corner of the Island. Lava is cascading into the sea and the sea water there was found profusely boiling. The present eruption is on a low intensity.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Trees and bushes on the path of the have flow in the Barren Island have been charred or burnt. The eruption is likely to adversely affect the marine life in the coastal areas surrounding the Island. However, the eruption is not likely to have any ecological effect on the main land.

**Achievements of sustainable Agriculture**

1781. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the review on sustainable Agriculture by A.T. Dadani which appeared in Economic Times dated the 16th July, 1991;

(b) whether it is a fact that like other developed countries, India is also moving towards goal of sustainable agriculture without use of pesticides; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and other feasible alternatives being developed and tested in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government are advocating Integrated Pest Management (IPM) as the main thrust of Plant Protection strategy. This strategy envisages incorporation of cultural, mechanical and biological techniques for pest and disease management. The adoption of this strategy leads to judicious and need based application of pesticides. Biological technique envisages control of pests through conservation and augmentation of parasites, predators and also use of other Biocontrol agents like fungi, viruses, nematodes, etc. Govt. are

also encouraging introduction of biological and botanical pesticides.

**.. Effects of pesticides on labourers**

1782. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that labourers employed for spraying various pesticides over the years are affected with various diseases such as eye-defects, muscular degeneration, giddiness etc.; and

(b) if so, the action Government have taken so far to ensure that health of the agricultural labourers is not affected?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) and (b) Pesticides being toxic in nature can cause health damage including diseases such as eye-defects, muscular degeneration, giddiness etc. to those spraying pesticides in the fields, if prescribed precautions are not taken. To avoid hazards, the Registration Committee constituted under the Insecticides Act, 1968 have permitted the use of only those pesticides which are safe to human beings, animals and environment and have also prescribed the required syraying precautions

Government have also been emphasizing on the State Governments and Pesticide Industry the need for educating the farmers to follow proper procedures and precautions while spraying pesticides.

**Shortage of edible oils**

1783. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is short fall in availability of edible oils at fair prices despite CLUSA and CIDA, Projects and Technology Mission on oilseeds, NDDB and other Government agencies having taken various projects since 1977;

(b) whether it is also a fact that NDDB has lost heavily on Market Intervention project on edible oils without profiting neither the farmers nor the consumers; and

(c) if so, what remedial measures are being taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN): (a) Yes Sir. There is a gap between aggregate demand for edible oils within the country and total availability.

(b) No, Sir. NDDB has managed Market Intervention Operations (MIO) so far without requiring any cash support from Government by way of reimbursement of losses. NDDB has paid remunerative prices to both groundnut and mustard producers which have been higher than minimum support prices declared by the Government of India. MIO has also benefited consumers by increasing sales of Dhara oil to approximately 73,620 MT in the financial year 1990-91.

(c) In view of the above, the question of Government taking remedial measures does not arise.

**Conversion of MG Lines into BG Lines in the Country**

1784. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the progress of MG line into BG line conversion projects in different parts of the country; and

(b) what is the progress made in Manmad-Purli Adilabad-Parbhani and the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MALLIKARJUN): (a) and (b) The progress of various sanctioned projects for